

Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY...NOVEMBER 23, 1881.

VIRGINIA METHODISTS.

After Five Days' of Earnest Work the Ninety-ninth Session of the Annual Conference Adjourned.

The Retirement of Dr. Lee—An Affecting Scene Saturday Afternoon—Portsmouth the Next Place of Meeting—A Long Session on Monday—Temperance Resolutions in Favor of "Local Option"—Finance, etc.

A FULL LIST OF APPOINTMENTS.

[Reported for the Dispatch.]

Fourth Day.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, November 19, 1881. Conference met according to adjournment—Bishop McTyeire in the chair.

J. D. Lumsden conducted religious services.

The Bishop continued the call of elders under

QUESTION 20TH.

R. A. Armitstead, J. G. Rowe, M. S. Conlon, B. C. Spiller, W. R. Crooks, William Allen, W. A. Laughon, S. H. Johnson, D. G. C. Butts, Paul Bradley, W. A. Crocker, H. T. Bacon, A. Wills, and L. M. Lee, elders, were called and their characters passed.

DR. LEE'S TOUCHING VALEDICTORY.

When the name of Dr. L. M. Lee was called, he read his report and requested the privilege of making a few remarks. He said in substance as follows:

"My family has been represented in the Methodist Church in Virginia from its organization, and in the ministry of the Church for ninety-eight years.

"I have been a member of the Virginia Conference for fifty-three years.

"I feel that I am good for many years more of ministerial work if my legs would let me do it.

"I have prayed that God would prepare a son of mine to take my place when I fell out of the ranks. This prayer has been denied me. (This he said with deep feeling.) My son-in-law, J. H. Patterson, is a son of my heart, and I sometimes almost wish I could change the Patterson to Lee, that my name might remain represented in the ministry. I have a grandson whom I hope God will call to be my successor."

Expressing his great love for his brethren he said: "There are faces here (pointing to the audience) that are engraven here" (pointing to his heart, while tears fell from his eyes). He asked to be remembered and prayed for by his brethren. He concluded by asking for a superannuated relation.

A. C. Bledsoe began the "Sweet Bye and Bye," which was sung most sweetly by the whole Conference amidst sobs and tears on every hand.

The Bishop in putting the question made pleasant allusion to the life and labors of Dr. Lee, and said he felt it "standing on a rock and beholding the setting sun."

At the close of the Bishop's remarks Dr. Lee's request for a superannuated relation was granted.

A committee was appointed to draft suitable resolutions on Dr. Lee's retirement from active work.

MEMORIAL SERVICES AND NEXT CONFERENCE.

Memorial services were made the order of the day for 11 o'clock A. M. Monday.

NEXT CONFERENCE.

The Bishop called the question, "Where shall the next Conference be held?"

Richmond, Portsmouth, and Elizabeth City were nominated. Portsmouth was chosen.

On motion, the choice was made unanimous.

A hymn was sung.

Dr. Lee pronounced the benediction and the Conference adjourned.

Fifth Day.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, November 21, 1881.

Conference met at 9:30 A. M.—Bishop McTyeire in the chair.

E. J. Boggs conducted religious services.

The minutes of the last session were read and approved.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

The Bishop resumed and completed the call under Question 20th: J. W. Hildrum, W. J. Twilley, C. C. Wertenbaker, W. E. Evans, J. W. Connally, W. H. Edwards, J. C. Watson, R. B. Beadles, B. F. Lipscomb, W. F. Bain.

L. B. Betty and W. W. Royal, elders, passed examination of character.

J. W. Connally and B. F. Woodward were granted a superannuated relation.

RETIRERD FROM THE MINISTRY.

Dr. R. N. Sledd delivered to the Conference the credentials of Preston W. Nash, who retires from the ministry of our Church.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

A. M. Hall and Judge Farrar were granted leave of absence.

INVITED TO A SEAT.

Dr. Buchanan, president of the Virginia Agricultural College, was invited to a seat within the bar of the Conference.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING DR. LEE.

G. B. Brown reported from the committee resolutions expressive of the feelings which filled the Conference at the sad necessity for the retirement from active duty of Dr. Lee. They were unanimously adopted. They conclude:

"Resolved, That carrying into the retirement a spotless reputation as wide as the domain of Methodism, if the providence of God should not permit him to be present at the future sessions of this body, with which he has been so closely identified for fifty-three years, we will ever hold him in loving and grateful remembrance, and will fervently pray that the period of his retirement may be as peaceful as his active life has been laborious and useful."

ALEXANDER G. BROWN,
GEORGE M. BAIN, JR.,
JOHN E. EDWARDS.

Dr. Lee responded in a few well-chosen remarks.

LETTER FROM CHINA.

When the name of W. W. Royal, missionary to China, was called, Paul Whitehead read a letter from Mr. Royal giving an account of his labors since his arrival in China, about ten months ago. Mr. Royal states that he has made such progress in the language that he can now converse with the natives. He feels that he is not mistaken in the choice of a foreign field for his ministerial labors.

On motion of G. H. Bay and P. A. Peterson, a resolution was adopted congratulating Mr. Royal on his rapid progress in learning the language, and assuring him of the sympathy and support of the Conference.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS.

A. G. Brown, chairman of the Joint Board of Finance, presented a preliminary report, read to the Conference by R. W. Watts, secretary of the Board, which shows the distribution to the "wornout preachers," widows and orphans of the Conference from the collections of this year the amount of \$6,020.

W. E. Judkins reported \$180 contributed by the members of the Conference as a special offering for the relief of Dr. Lee, who will have no claim upon the unappropriated fund until next year.

Smith, of Randolph-Macon College, was invited to address the Conference on the subject of the report before the body.

Professor Smith earnestly advocated "local option" as the most available plan for abating the evils of intemperance. He stated during his address that the State spends twelve millions for drink, while she claims to be too poor to pay two millions interest on her public debt. The Professor made a strong speech.

Dr. Bennett addressed the Conference on the subject of the report.

P. A. Peterson spoke to the question, claiming that the Methodist Church has always been the foe of the traffic in ardent spirits, and of the drinking of ardent spirits, except in cases of necessity.

Dr. Rosser spoke, insisting that the legislation of the Church is sufficient, but the law of the Church is violated, and urged the necessity of enforcing the law against those members who are drunk-drivers or drum-sellers.

W. W. Walker offered a substitute for Mr. Peterson's amendment, which was accepted by Mr. Peterson and Mr. Edwards.

The report as amended was adopted, as follows:

THE REPORT.

The evils resulting from the sale of intoxicants constitute one of the most serious because one of the most powerful obstacles to religious progress. They meet the Gospel herald in every spurious and evil full, and wherever found present peculiar dangers to the institutions of Christianity. The strength is derived by the amount of successful resistance offered for years to all the efforts made by temperance organizations and by ecclesiastical bodies of all denominations to educate the population of our country up to a proper idea of philanthropy or Christian duty in the premises. For more than a century the Methodist Church has battled the wrong by the testimony of its general rules, and by the example and work of pious preachers and laymen. In the present condition of the contest we recognize with joy a growing sentiment in favor of exertion toward securing an act by the Legislature of the State giving to the counties power to do the same.

THE DIVISION OF CONFERENCE.

Rev. William E. Judkins, of the Committee on Memoirs, read a memoir of W. J. Norfleet, after which eulogistic remarks were made upon the character of the deceased by several ministers.

Rev. J. C. Watson read a memoir of Rev. Benjamin T. Ames.

Rev. Jacob Manning also made some remarks respecting the saintly character of Mr. Ames.

On motion the report of the committee was adopted.

THE CONFERENCE INTEGRT.

The question of the substitute on the report of the Committee on Division of Conference was again taken up, and a lengthy and spirited debate ensued, which extended far into the night. The previous question being at last called, the substitute was lost by a large majority amid great applause.

The report of the committee was then adopted.

THE CONFERENCE INTACT.

A motion to memorialize the General Conference to preserve intact the territory of the Virginia Conference was presented and adopted.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Rev. J. W. Bledsoe presented the report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

It reviews the Sunday-school work of the Conference, and presents a most gratifying statement respecting the condition of the work. It, by resolution, appoints the second Sunday in June as Children's Day throughout the bounds of the Conference, and appoints Rev. H. M. Hope Sunday-school agent for the next year.

The report was adopted.

EDUCATION.

Rev. George E. Booker presented the report of the Committee on Education.

The report recommends favorably Randolph-Macon College, and approves schools, male and female. It directs the joint Board of Finance to assess \$3,000 upon the districts for the aid of Randolph-Macon College, and authorizes the appointment of a committee to confer with like committees from the North Carolina and the Houston Conferences respecting the consolidation of the male colleges under the supervision of these Conferences.

The report was adopted.

FINANCES.

Rev. A. G. Brown reported the total contributions for all purposes during the past year as \$251,187.31; increase over last year, \$8,898; for preachers' salaries, \$114,274.66; bishops' fund, \$1,591.85; educational fund, \$2,517.33; Sunday schools, \$16,411.81; building and repairing churches, \$4,587.31.

ASSESSMENTS.

Mr. Brown reported the assessment for the ensuing year to be in all things the same as last year.

BOARDERS AND COMMITTEES.

W. W. Walker presented the report of the Committee on Publishing Interests.

The report presents an abstract of the report of the agent of the Publishing House; congratulates the Church on the success of the agent in reducing the principal of the debt of the House in the sum of \$104,540.70 in three years, and the reduction of the annual interest from about \$30,000 annually to about \$10,000 per annum.

Dr. McFerrin, agent of the Publishing House, was invited to address the Conference.

The report was adopted.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

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Dr. Sledd reported for the information of the Conference the appropriations made by the Society for the Relief of the Preachers, their Widows and Orphans; and the following persons were elected directors of said Society for the ensuing year: R. N. Sledd, D. D., J. Carson Watson, F. M. Edwards, H. T. Lassiter, William F. McMullen, George M. Bain, Jr., J. H. Dawson, Dr. J. E. Broadwater, and Christopher V. Winfree.

TEMPERANCE AND LOCAL OPTION.